New P & T Offices in Assam

1225. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the target fixed for opening of new posts and telegraph offices in Assam during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) The details of targets fixed for opening of new posts and telegraph offices in Assam during 2000-2001 and 2001 -2002 are given in the Statement *{See* below). Post Offices are opened on norm based justification subject to the availability of resources including sanction of required posts by the Government for this purpose.

Statement

Details of Target Fixed for opening of new posts and Telegraph Offices in Assam during 2000-2001 *and* 2001 -2002 *and steps taken in this regard*

Year	Target fixed for opening new post offices	New post offices opened
2000-2001	33	Fully achieved
2001-2002	37	11 new post offices already approved for opening.

With the expansion of Telecom Network throughout the country and introduction of STD and FAX facilities, the demand for telegraph is reducing. Therefore, no specific targets have been fixed. The telegraph facility is provided as per demand and justification.

New **sugar factories in Karnataka**

1226. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of requests pending with Government for approval of new sugar factories in Karnataka;